

From: Rao, Kate
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Subject: Weekly Report for week ending Aug 14

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WEEKLY REPORT

Region 9

Environmental Protection Agency

Week of August 14, 2015

Water Division

Highlight of Past Week

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CA Wild Fires (Mad River Fire - Trinity County; Wragg Fire - Solano County; Rocky Fire - Yolo County): Water systems in the affected areas sustained some damage. Most have been repaired and service restored. These water systems are considered seasonal. (Li, 2-3560)

Proposed Tribal TAS Reinterpretation: On 8/7, EPA's proposed reinterpretation of Treatment in a similar manner as a State (TAS) under the Clean Water Act (CWA) was published in the Federal Register <https://federalregister.gov/a/2015-19351>. The proposed rule would streamline the process tribes currently complete to apply for TAS under the CWA regulatory programs. EPA HQ is accepting comments on the proposed rule through 10/6/15. The first of three EPA HQ informational webinars is scheduled for 9/10/15. (Vanegas, 2-3433)

Water Quality Standards and ESA Consultation FOIA: EPA HQ and all Regions are responding to a national FOIA request from Environmental Advocates (EA; group includes former ORC attorney, Chris Sproul). This FOIA request is likely in preparation for a lawsuit that EA will file against EPA for not completing water quality standards review and ESA consultations in a timely manner. (Hashimoto, 2-3452; Fleming, 2-3462)

California Nonpoint Source Program Plan: We approved CA's *Nonpoint Source Program Implementation Plan, 2014-2020*. Plan updates are required every 5 years per CWA §319 and §6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990 ("CZARA"), to maintain relevant program performance measures and eligibility for CWA §319 funding. This Plan identifies goals and activities for restoring nonpoint source impaired waters in over 30 targeted watersheds, as well as expanding coastal protection activities, advancing Water Board regulatory authorities, and collaborating with key stakeholders to leverage technical and fiscal resources. (Sue Keydel, 2-3106)

Klamath River Cyanobacteria: Upper Klamath Lake and the Klamath River in Oregon and down through PacifiCorp Reservoirs in California are now posted for elevated cyanotoxin levels. In CA, Copco Reservoir was posted on July 1 and Iron Gate Reservoir on July 21. The Oregon Health Authority issued health advisories beginning July 28th and extended that advisory to the California/Oregon border on August 5, 2015. Most recent sample results (7/29/2015) from the Klamath River below the PacifiCorp reservoirs do not exceed the state of California's Recommended Threshold for Recreational Waters for harmful algae blooms but do exceed stricter tribal criteria. A reach of the Klamath River downstream of confluence with Trinity River (approximately 40 miles from estuary) is posted by Yurok Tribe as a precautionary measure. (Keydel, 2-3106)

Drought Related

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EPA and IHS Meeting: On 8/13, we met with the regional Indian Health Service Area Office Directors from California, Phoenix, Tucson and Navajo to discuss drinking water and clean water infrastructure programs, operation and maintenance and ongoing infrastructure projects. The meeting also focused on EPA and IHS updates on tribal drought coordination with state and federal partners and available resources to assist impacted tribal drinking water systems. (Albright, 2-3971; Vanegas, 2-3433)

Significant Items for Next Week

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CA UIC Meetings: Our regular monthly meeting with the State on their Class II UIC program will be held Wed. August 19th. We'll discuss the latest State deliverable regarding well evaluations for EOR injection wells and the status of aquifer exemption packages under consideration by the State. Also on Aug 19th we are meeting with the State Board regarding potential options for EPA permitted Class I injection wells in the Elk Hills field and Class I injection wells at two refineries in the Fruitvale field that are currently authorized under Regional Board WDRs. EPA/State action on the Class I wells is intertwined with Class II well considerations in these two oil fields. (Albright, 2-3971)

Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center Tour: On 8/18, staff and ORA will take a tour of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center. The Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center is the largest advanced water purification plant in Northern California. This state-of-the-art facility receives secondary treated wastewater and uses microfiltration, reverse osmosis and ultraviolet light to produce 8 million gallons a day of highly purified water that is expected to match California drinking water standards. (Rao, 2-3533)

Drought Related

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Site Visit to Klamath Area Tribes: On 8/17-21, staff will travel to the Klamath Area Tribes to visit CWA project sites, meet with Indian Health Service (IHS) and see Clean Water Indian Set-Aside (CWISA) funded projects. Under the FY15 CWISA program, EPA funded the replacement and installation of new septic systems to serve 2-3 remote homes within the Wautek Community (Yurok Reservation) that have undersized gravel pit septic systems. CA Area IHS is funding the water connections of these homes to the main community water system to address water outages due to the drought. (Wang, 2-3458)

Press Stories, Significant Policy, Regulatory, or Legal Actions (2-3 weeks out)

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Grant Announcements

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Legislative Engagement

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Travel, Training, Public/National Meetings, and Speaking Engagements

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Stormwater Training: On 8/11-12, we attended a stormwater training co-sponsored by the County of Maui Department of Public Works, Hawaii DOH, and EPA. The training was open to County of Maui staff as well as other stormwater dischargers within the Kahului-Paia urbanized area on the Island of Maui. The training focused on construction and post-construction BMPs as well as highway construction and operation BMPs. (Slay 1-2717)

30-60 Day Outlook

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Other Information

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Deployments: Andrew Sallach and Kevin Ryan are in Saipan assisting with water and wastewater issues due to Typhoon Souledor. Bessie Lee is in Window Rock as a subject matter expert assisting Navajo Nation with potential drinking water impacts due to the Gold King Mine spill.

Acting Division Director's Schedule for the week of August 18th: Mike Montgomery will be in all week except for Wednesday where he will be attending a meeting in Sacramento. Woo will act.

Internal to Region 9

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Confidential Information

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